

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite providing at least a first, a second, a third, a fourth, a fifth, and a sixth component of an electrical circuit, where each component is initially in a separated, non-interconnected state. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite an act of assembling the electrical circuit via self-assembly by allowing at least one of the two circuit contact areas to fasten and electrically connect to at least one circuit contact area of at least one other component. Claim 1 has further been amended to recite that the components form a self-supporting, three-dimensional electrical circuit comprising the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth components, wherein at least the first, second, and third components are intersected by a first plane and at least the fourth, fifth, and sixth components are intersected by a second plane that is not coplanar with the first plane, and wherein a single plane cannot be arranged in any way so as to contact each of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth components. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the electrical circuit has integrated circuit connectivity. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, for example, on page 1, lines 8-9; page 5, lines 17-18; page 15, lines 7; page 6, lines 11-20; Fig. 3H; and Fig. 6. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-8 have correspondingly been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims similar or identical to claim 4 as pending prior to cancellation herein in one or more applications claiming priority to the instant application.

Applicants have also added new claims 43-55. Support for new claims 43-45 can be found in the specification, for example, on at least page 9, lines 7-11. Support for claim 46 can be found in at least Fig. 2. Support for claim 47 can be found on at least page 11, lines 29-31. Support for claim 48 can be found on at least page 15, lines 10-11. Support for claims 49 and 50 can be found on at least page 15, line 11. Support for claim 51 can be found on at least page 13, lines 1-9. Support for claims 52 and 53 can be found on at least page 9, lines 5-7. Support for claim 54 can be found on at least page 13, lines 8-9. Support for claim 55 can be found on at least page 12, lines 27-29.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 43-55 are now pending for examination.

Rejections Under §102(e)

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bowden, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,507,989 ("Bowden").

Applicants do not see where in Bowden there is a disclosure or a suggestion of a method of providing at least a first, a second, a third, a fourth, a fifth, and a sixth component of an electrical circuit, and assembling the electrical circuit via self-assembly using the method of independent claim 1, as currently amended. Accordingly, it is believed that Bowden does not anticipate the invention as presently claimed, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-3 and 5-9 are believed to be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-9 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

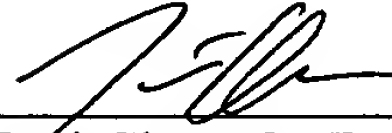
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Respectfully submitted,

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